GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

CAF & CS Department – PDS – Supply of Quality of Rice in packed form under Public Distribution System – Proposal for constitution of Group of Ministers Committee to examine various options and recommendations – Orders – Issued.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (CS.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 43 Dated: 29-07-2019

ORDER:

The Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., is distributing Rice and other Essential Commodities to the Priority and AAY card holders through Fair Price Shop network as per the allotment made by the Government of A.P., under Targeted Public Distribution System. Numerous complaints have been received regarding the quality and quantity of rice distributed under the present public distribution system. In order to streamline the existing system, the Government has decided to distribute rice in tamper proof and weighment assured packets at the door step of eligible card holders through a system of village/ward volunteers from 1st Sept., 2019 onward.

2. At present, the Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd, is procuring paddy under MSP Operations from farmers and transporting the purchased paddy to 1620 Rice Mills for Custom Milling. The Custom Milled Rice is accepted in 50 Kg new jute gunnies for storage and utilization of the same for Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh allotments under PDS and other welfare schemes. During KMS and RMS 2018-19, Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd has procured 70 lakh MTs of paddy as per FCI quality norms and at present has 14 lakh MTs of rice in various buffer godowns.

3. During the ensuing Khariff 2019, it is proposed to procure good quality edible varieties of paddy and resultant CMR with improved quality parameters i.e., sortex rice with less brokens, damaged and discoloured rice etc. Such rice which is procured during the ensuing Kharif 2019 would have to age for three months to be fit for consumption and therefore would be available for distribution from March 2020 only. However the Government has announced to distribute rice in tamper proof and weighment assured packets at the door step of eligible card holders through a system of village/ward volunteers from 1st September, 2019 onwards.

4. To ensure smooth roll out of the new system from 1st September, 2019, it is proposed to utilize the existing stocks of rice available with Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd at various buffer godowns. Since the procurement of required machinery by Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd would take six months, it is proposed to utilize the available sortex and packaging facilities of existing rice mills in the state as a temporary measure. To achieve the improved quality parameters of existing stocks of Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd i.e, sortex rice with less brokens, damaged and discoloured rice etc., additional processing of rice has to be done at designated rice mills. The Rice which is available in 50 KG., bags at the buffer godowns of Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd has to be repacked into small denominations of 5 Kg., 10 Kg., and 20 Kg based on requirement.

5. Now, to improve the quality of existing stocks of rice through additional processing, charges to be paid to the rice millers have to be finalized. Further, suitable packing material and machinery to be procured by Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd has to be finalized based on the various implications. Therefore, the Government has taken a decision to constitute a Committee with group of Ministers to examine various options to improve the quality of rice including sortex, bagging material and bagging machinery and come with suitable recommendations needed to improve quality of rice in the public distribution system and to start the door step delivery of rice to eligible households in packed form from 1st September, 2019 onwards.

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6. In view of the above and after careful examination of the proposal, Government hereby constitute a committee with the following Ministers:

1. Minister for Finance.
2. Minister for Agriculture.
3. Minister for Housing
4. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies.

7. The Ex. Officio Secretary to Government, Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Department, shall be the Convener of the above Group of Ministers Committee.

8. The terms and conditions of the Committee are as follows:

i. To negotiate with the rice millers regarding the charges/incentives to be paid to the millers towards improved quality parameters including sortex, reduction of discoloured/ broken grains etc.

ii. To finalize the appropriate packaging machinery and bagging material

iii. To recommend appropriate measures to encourage small and medium rice mills to install sortex machinery and participate in the new programme.

9. The Member Convenor is requested to furnish the recommendations of the committee as early as possible for taking necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

KONA SASIDHAR,
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Minister's Concerned.
The Ex. Officio Secretary to Government, CAF & CS Department, A.P. Secretary and Member Convenor, Velagapudi, Guntur District, Amaravathi.
Copy to:

The Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, A.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., Vijayawada.
The Director, Civil Supplies Department.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER